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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

Inspection work in Chinatown, San Francisco, and some results of disinfection.

The following is received from Surgeon Glennan, at San Francisco, under date of May 4, 1903:

With the commencement of the joint inspection and disinfection work in this city I devised a plan by means of rough diagrams to show the daily progress of the work in the infected districts by means of colored pencils. The first solid shading showed the daily work of inspection from block to block until the Chinese and Japanese districts were entirely covered. Following this came the work of disinfection which was extended to wider limits. I inclose a copy of the completed diagram showing the work from February 10 to April 30, 1903. Two complete house-to-house inspections of this district have been made in that time, besides irregular night and day inspections to any points where suspicion was directed. Valuable information has been furnished by our night sanitary inspector. The first disinfection consisted of strong English chloride of lime, which has been used twice over the whole district, in the basements, area ways, alleys, and even up in the third and fourth floors. This was followed by 5 per cent solution of strong carbolic acid, used with a hand force pump, hose, and sprinkler. The rat poison, consisting of phosphorus paste, has been used in large quantities in all the sewers from Powell street on the west to Montgomery on the east, and from Broadway to Bush street. In addition, a number of traps are also used. It is a fact, noticed by the inhabitants themselves, that rats, flies, and fleas have been remarkably decreased in this district, more so than ever before in the memory of the place. The board of public works and the city board of health are continuing the destruction of the old wooden rookeries which obstruct the rear areas and alleys, and this is being followed up with white-washing, plumbing, and concreting. It is generally believed that all this work is now showing results, and it will be continued indefinitely upon the same lines.